

internaso-præfrontal sutures. *Præfrontals*.—A pair; the suture between them greater than the præfronto-frontal. *Frontal*.—Touches 8 shields; the fronto-supraocular sutures subequal to the fronto-parietals. *Nasals*.—Divided; in contact with the 1st and 2nd supralabials. *Loreal*.—One, touching the eye beneath the præocular.

Præocular.—One, just touching the frontal. *Postoculars*.—Two. *Temporals*.—Small and scale-like. *Supralabials*.—8, the 3rd, 4th and 5th touching the eye. *Infralabials*.—6; the 5th and 6th touching the posterior sublinguals. *Sublinguals*.—Two pairs. *Costals*.—Two headlengths from the head 25, in midbody 25, two headlengths before the vent 17. The vertebrals feebly enlarged, the breadth less than the length. *Ventrals*.—268. *Anal*.—Entire. *Subcaudals*.—7. The tail is mostly missing.

Length about $22\frac{1}{2}$ inches, the stump of the tail $2\frac{5}{8}$ inches.

Colour.—Dirty buff with the following very distinct, but ill-defined, blackish marks dorsally. A series of short crossbars down the back involving about 4 scales in the length of the snake anteriorly, 3 posteriorly, and separated by intervals about one scale long (often parts of two scales). Two series of costal spots alternating with one another, and the upper alternating with the vertebral bars.

Head greyish with no postocular, occipital, or nuchal marks. Belly uniform blackish.

The anterior palatine teeth are enlarged but not very markedly so.

It seems to resemble *D. cynodon* in its lepidosis more closely than the other previously described species, but is very distinct in having the vertebrals feebly enlarged, and the loreal in contact with the eye.

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ALMORA, 3rd January 1914.

No. XXXII.—REMARKS TO SHOW THAT THE SNAKE HITHERTO KNOWN AS *ZAMENIS MUCOSUS* HAS BEEN MISPLACED, AND SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE GENUS *ZAOCCYS*.

In my popular paper on the Dhaman (*Zamenis mucosus*) in this Journal (Vol. XVII, p. 271), I remarked on a peculiarity in the absorption of the scale rows. On examining a specimen of this snake, we find that just behind the middle of the body (very rarely before) the scale rows which up to this point number 17, reduce to 16 by the absorption of the vertebral row into the uppermost row on the left side. Later the rows further reduce to 14 or 12, by the absorption of the 3rd row above the ventrals on each side. In no other snake with which I am acquainted in Asia from Persia to Japan is a similar peculiarity to be seen. The scale rows in all other species except those of the Genus *Zaocys* being in odd rows in the whole bodylength, whether the rows reduce in number or not. In the Genus *Zaocys* however, the rows are in even numbers. The Genus is a small one which comprised but six species when Mr. Boulenger's Catalogue appeared (Vol. I) in 1893. I have had opportunities of examining, but three of those six species, viz., *Z. dhumnades* from China, *Z. nigromarginatus* from Assam and *Z. tenasserimansis* from Tenasserim. In all these species I find the vertebral row is absorbed into the uppermost row on the left side shortly behind the parietal shields, and from this point the rows are in even numbers. In other words the same remarkable absorption occurs that we see in *Zamenis mucosus* only it is in the neck instead of about midbody. In the three *Zaocys* referred to the scale rows further reduce to 14 by an absorption of the 3rd row above the ventrals.